

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178016
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CSAF WASHDC PRIORITY
USMCEB WASHDC PRIORITY
USAFFMO WASHDC PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII PRIORITY 0810
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI PRIORITY
COMTAC LANGLEY AFB VA PRIORITY
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KOREA PRIORITY
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
552 AWACW TINKER AFB OK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178016

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 6, PARA 2 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MILI, KS, US

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PAGE 02 STATE 178016

SUBJECT: E-3A AWACS DEPLOYMENT TO KOREA AND JAPAN
1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO NOTIFY POSTS OF CUR-
RENT PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL FY 1978 EXERCISE DEPLOYMENTS
TO WESTPAC. TWO E-3A AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM
(AWACS) AIRCRAFT WILL DEPLOY TO WESTPAC FROM 6-17 SEP 78
IN ORDER TO TEST E-3A EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURES AND DEMONSTRATE
THE AWACS CAPABILITY FOR US AND ALLIED OFFICIALS. THE

DEPLOYMENT SUPPORTS THE SECDEF COMMITMENT AT THE 10TH US-ROK SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM) (TO BE REAFFIRMED AT THE UPCOMING 11TH SCM) TO INCREASE EMPHASIS ON EXERCISES AND DEPLOYMENTS TO KOREA. THE KOREANS WERE INFORMED AT THE 10TH SCM THAT THE US WILL BE ASSIGNING AWACS RESOURCES TO THE PACIFIC AND THAT THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR COVERAGE OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA IN A CONTINGENCY.

2. FOR THE PLANNED DEPLOYMENT, THE TWO E-3A AIRCRAFT WILL OPERATE FROM KADENA AB AND WILL CONDUCT RADAR SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL MISSIONS OVER KOREA. THE AIRCRAFT WILL FLY IN AN ORBIT LOCATED OVER CENTRAL SOUTH KOREA AT LEAST 96 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTH OF THE DMZ. A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SUPPORT EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL WILL DEPLOY TO KOREA DURING THE DEMONSTRATION TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE INTERFACE BETWEEN AWACS AND ELEMENTS OF THE KOREA TACTICAL AIR CONTROL SYSTEM. EXTENSIVE COORDINATION WILL BE REQUIRED WITH HOST COUNTRY RADIO REGULATORY AGENCIES FOR FREQUENCY CLEARANCES AND TO RESOLVE POSSIBLE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC INTERFERENCE PROBLEMS.

3. (FYI: DURING THE DEPLOYMENT PERIOD, CURRENT PLANNING ENVISIONS THAT ONE OF THE E-3A AIRCRAFT WILL LAND AT OSAN AB, KOREA TO PROVIDE A DEMONSTRATION OF AWACS CAPABILITY FOR SENIOR US AND ROK OFFICIALS. A STATIC DISPLAY IS ALSO PLANNED AT KADENA AB AND/OR YOKOTA AB FOR US AND JAPANESE PERSONNEL. SPECIFIC CLASSIFIED DISCLOSURE AUTHORITIES
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PAGE 03 STATE 178016

APPLICABLE TO THE JAPAN AND KOREA SEGMENTS OF THE DEPLOYMENT ARE NOW BEING DETERMINED. CURRENT PLANNING ALSO CALLS FOR E-3A PARTICIPATION IN A COPE THUNDER EXERCISE IN THE PHILIPPINES. END FYI)

4. THE E-3A IS A UNIQUE AND HIGHLY VISIBLE ELEMENT OF OUR TACTICAL FORCES. ITS DEPLOYMENT IN WESTPAC PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY AWACS AT MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE AND TO DEMONSTRATE US SUPPORT FOR KOREA IN CONSONANCE WITH PUBLIC SAFETY AFFAIRS GOALS OUTLINED BY AMEMBASSY SEOUL. A MEDIA PROGRAM OF PHOTO COVERAGE PLUS INTERVIEWS WITH CREW MEMBERS AND SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS IS CONTEMPLATED IN BOTH KOREA AND JAPAN. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME, NO PRE-DEPLOYMENT PUBLICITY IS PLANNED.

5. REQUEST YOU ADVISE WHEN HOST GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE DEPLOYMENT PLAN SO THAT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED BETWEEN APPROPRIATE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

CHRISTOPER

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